

of State for approval; and to which the Queen made a gracious and pleasant though brief reply. Later he made calls, as the Court etiquette required, upon Sagasta, President of the Council of Ministers, and upon Moret, the Minister of State; and on the day following, he visited in succession the remaining members of the Cabinet, and his colleagues of the Diplomatic Corps, according to the custom which requires the latest comer to make the first calls.

All the ceremonial requirements of an ancient and punctilious Court were rigidly observed by the new American Minister. On New Year's Day, 1886, in company with the whole Diplomatic Corps, he paid a visit of condolence to the Queen Regent, and the Infanta Isabella; and a few days after, with Mrs. Curry, he called in a less formal way upon the same royal personages.

With a ready intelligence that foreign diplomacy carries with it in eminent degree the requirements of social obligation, Curry and his wife began soon thereafter a series of afternoon receptions, which were continued with increasing popularity during the period of their sojourn at the Spanish Court. Frequent dinners were given, in return for like civilities, and to promote international good feeling; and to these functions were invited the Diplomatic Corps, members of the government, officers of the army and navy, members of the nobility, English and American visitors, and the elite of the old Spanish families of Madrid. The good taste and charm of these entertainments soon attracted public attention; and the newspapers of the Capitol were lavish in the praise which they bestowed upon their distinction.

"The American Legation," commented *El Resumen*, in an article which was characteristic of many others that appeared in the Spanish press of the period, "is undoubtedly one of the most hospitable in Madrid. Mr. Curry and his beautiful and distinguished wife sustain worthily in the Spanish Capital the standard of the rich and powerful American Republic. In addition to their Monday receptions, they have inaugurated a series of sumptuous banquets on Thursdays. . . .

"Mr. Curry employs his diplomatic leisure in writing a work on the Constitutions which have been used in Spain since the establishment of the Parliamentary regime."

. It was a season of no small personal pleasure and enjoyment to the Currys; and of it, Curry wrote a short time before his death:—

Even now, twelve and fourteen years after, a war with bitterness and humiliating results intervening, we catch echoes of pleasant remembrances of those enjoyable events.

Of this social side of his career Curry writes to Mr. Winthrop in Boston, after a year's experience, as follows:—

MADRID, 28 Dec., 1886.

DEAR MR. WINTHROP:—

. . . In a former letter, I think I mentioned our formal or State dinners, which bring us into pleasant social intercourse with leading men and women. I do not share in his political opinions, but no statesman here has impressed me as much as Canovas. He has firmness, courage, intelligence, political experience, breadth of view and much wit. He talks at a dinner-table exceedingly well, but both he and Castelar monopolize the "talk." Canovas, speaking of Castelar's well-known and inoffensive vanity, and peacockish display, said of him, that he never saw a marriage without wishing to be the bride, nor a funeral without wishing to be the corpse.

In addition to dinners, Mrs. Curry has receptions every Monday from 5 to 7; and these re-unions are so popular that her salons are crowded with the best and most notable people of Madrid. This winter's experience is in most pleasant contrast with the last; and has increased—decreased, rather, the discomforts of Madrid life, and much enhanced my ability and opportunities for usefulness. I beg you to believe me that my desire to benefit our country, and to show that an ex-Confederate can be entrusted with the honor and welfare of the Country, are the highest motives of action. . . .

Yours faithfully,

J. L. M. CURRY.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,  
BOSTON, MASS.

During the first year of Curry's service at Madrid, an event of unusual interest occurred in the posthumous birth of the heir to the throne of the King, whose death had taken place on the day of the Minister's arrival.

"On 28 April," he writes, "I received an invitation, sent to the diplomatic corps, based on the approaching confinement of the Queen Regent, with a request to be present at 'la ceremonia de la presentacion del Rey y Infanta.'

"On the first of May I received an official notification, more formal and urgent, from the Introducer of Ambassadors, and from the 'Mayordomia de S.M. . . . ' inviting me to 'asista a Palacio al acto de la presentacion del Rey y Infanta que S.M. diere a luz.' Four days afterwards Mary and I met the Queen Regent and the Infanta Eulalia driving in a low, two-seated carriage. On Monday, the 17th of May, about sunrise, a messenger from the Palace came in post haste to summon my immediate attendance. Omitting all signs of mourning, with which all officials were bedecked since the death of the King, I went to the Palace

and found some of the diplomatic corps (others came later) and government officials, in full uniform, with cocked hats, swords, gold bands, and all the decorations to which they were entitled. The Cabinet, officially arrayed, and a number of distinguished officers and civilians were there, or arrived afterwards.

"We waited half or three-quarters of an hour, when the Cabinet was called. Soon the President, Señor Sagasta, returned, and standing at the door, proclaimed in Spanish, 'Long live the King!' This announced the birth and sex of him, who, so far as I know, was the first human being ever born a King.

"Passing at once through a suite of rooms, we were halted next to the chamber of the Queen. Arranging ourselves in a semicircle, and waiting for what might occur, a lady, one of the Queen's waiting-women, came out, holding in her hands a beautiful silver basket, or waiter. In this, enveloped in soft cotton, was the new-born babe, His Royal Highness, Prince of Asturias, King of Spain. The babe was passed around, *in puris naturalibus*, for our inspection; but I did not see the divinity which hedges in a King. He soon proved his common humanity by crying, and was withdrawn to be clothed. This ceremony, once so common, to prevent imposition of false heirs, is peculiar to Spain; and I am one of the few now living who 'assisted' at such a function. The birth was soon made known by firing of cannon, ringing of bells, and noisy, tumultuous demonstrations on the streets. . . .

"On the 22nd the baptism of the babe was performed in the royal chapel in the Palace, and was a splendid ceremonial. Invitations were sent us; and they prescribed the dress for both men and women. The rigor of the rule about mourning had been relaxed since the advent of the royal monarch, and the eagerness of the ladies, even the sisters of the late King, to throw aside the sombre black, showed that mourning for a conventional time was irksome and tended to degenerate into mere formalities.



"Just before one o'clock, we drove to the Palace. The square and surrounding streets were thronged with eager and curious people. We entered by the grand staircase, one of the most magnificent in Europe, which was lined by officers and soldiers richly dressed. A spacious corridor surrounds and overlooks the interior court or plaza. This was decorated with abundant and beautiful tapestry, while the floor was richly carpeted. To reach the chapel it was necessary to make the circuit of full half of the corridor. The whole distance was lined with people, four or five rows in depth; but the Civil Guard kept an open avenue, wide enough for the gorgeously dressed favored few, who had access to the chapel.

"While marching through the avenue, the Introducer of Ambassadors met us, and offering his arm to Mrs. Curry, conducted her to the tribune which had been erected and upholstered in the chapel for the diplomatic corps. It was with much personal and national pride that an American saw the female representative of his country encountering with such calmness the battery of a thousand eyes; for, as her train swept gracefully behind, she was the cynosure of universal admiration, and elicited a thousand compliments. She wore a white satin dress, a point lace overdress looped with feathers, a white satin train lined with green velvet, and trimmed with sable, a point-lace mantilla, white feathers, a diamond aigrette, emeralds in hair and a diamond brooch in front.

"The royal chapel, not very large, was fitted up with splendor; and places were so assigned as to prevent uncomfortable pressure. Men and women, titled and untitled, were arrayed in silks and satins, in silver and gold and gems and jewels. The clergy were much *en evidence*, and all departments of the Government had their chosen representatives. The magnificence was unparalleled. The royal babe, gorgeously dressed, preceded by civil and ecclesiastical dignitaries, was brought in by Infanta Isabel, aided or attended by the Papal Nuncio, Cardinal Ram-

polla, and the first lady of the Court. The little fellow screamed lustily, showing his protest against such fuss and folly. The 'baptism,' I suppose, was after the usual ceremony of the Church of Rome, emphasized and prolonged for the occasion, and the exceptional 'subject.' The Pope, through the Nuncio, stood sponsor, or godfather; and the whole function consumed an hour and a half.

". . . The King was christened Alfonso Leon Fernando Santiago Maria Isidro Pascual y Anton."

Curry's principal diplomatic efforts at the Spanish Court were in the direction of negotiating a commercial treaty which should free the commerce between America and Spain from some of its traditional restrictions. Of these efforts and their results he wrote to Mr. Winthrop, in July, 1886:—

The same assumption that you are more than interested in us as representatives of the United States will justify me in saying that I have had extraordinary, certainly unusual, success in my diplomatic negotiations. Two serious questions I fell heir to. One of them has perplexed and irritated both countries for more than fifty years. Spain has very naturally sought to control the trade of her Antillean dependencies. Our nearness to the islands, and the market we gave to their products, made us successful competitors. Hence grew up a war of tariffs. An agreement of Feb., 1884, intended by Mr. Foster to remove discriminations, failed of its object; as the two governments put a contrary interpretation upon certain words of the instrument. Mr. Frelinghuysen and Mr. Bayard gave very emphatic instructions. I have succeeded in getting a Royal Order removing the differential flag duty, and conforming to the American construction.

As far back as 1876 Mr. Cushing entered an earnest protest against some consular fees on tonnage collected in American ports. The different Secretaries of State have

issued minatory instructions, and all my predecessors have wasted much breath, time and paper in a vain effort to get a correction of the abuse. Fortunately, by incessant exertions, demanding all the tact, patience and ability I was master of, I have succeeded in getting a suppression of what was so obnoxious to my Government.

These Spaniards are strange people. When you enter a house for the first time, everything is placed at your disposition, but the polite compliment means nothing. The like offer of everything is carried into diplomacy, and is equally meaningless. Patience represents an act or quality of looking for justice, or an expected good, without murmuring or fretfulness; and that virtue is likely to have her perfect work in dealing with high officials, between whose premises and performances there is an impassable gulf, or the width of weary months and years.

In a later memorandum Curry writes of his labors in behalf of a commercial treaty which should be unambiguous in its terms and just to his government:—

For years by my predecessors and myself, the matter was pressed; but nothing more favorable and decisive could I accomplish than some slight modifications of consular usages and a larger *modus vivendi*, which remained in force until our late unfortunate war.

But there were other matters of importance besides the commercial treaty which demanded his attention and engaged his efforts; and his account of some of them serves to show that his representation of the United States as their Minister did not mean that his time and attention were devoted only to the social side of his mission.

“Another matter I inherited,” he writes, “which gave annoyance and trouble. For many years the Legation was

burdened with Cuban claims; and the claimants, personally, through attorneys, and through instructions from the State Department, were urgent and insistent in demanding payment for enormous alleged injuries and losses.

"Instead of making a drag-net of claims of varied worth and proof, my accomplished Secretary, E. H. Strobel, and myself, after thorough consideration, decided to select one, apparently the best sustained, and make a test of it, with the hope that an agreement to pay one would settle the principle and establish a precedent for paying others. After scores of interviews, annoying delays, wearing patience threadbare, I succeeded in getting an agreement to pay the claim of Mora for \$1,500,000. This agreement bound the Government, committed the members of the Cabinet, —but aroused active opposition in the Cortes, threatened the existence of the Government, and drew down on Moret vile slanders. I wish just here parenthetically to affirm my perfect faith in Moret's integrity and absolute freedom from word or act affecting in remotest degree the purity of his official life, or his fidelity to the interests and honor of Spain. The claim was delayed in payment for some years; and Spain, in her impecunious condition, finally yielded to heavy pressure brought to bear on her by the United States Government. Various pretences have been put forth, arrogating credit for the success of the Mora claim; but the decisive and binding agreement to pay was made with me as the United States representative."

Curry's personal charm and attractiveness, and his varied official duties and social opportunities at Madrid, made for him many friends and acquaintances there. Among them were different members of the royal family, and a number of the prominent politicians and statesmen of the time and country. The roll of their names is notable and significant,



and includes Sigismund Moret, Sagasta, Castelar, Canovas and Salmeron; and on it also are inscribed those of the Archduchess of Austria, the Duke of Montpensier, the Comte de Paris, and many others of noble birth and distinguished rank.

"Sigismund Moret," writes Curry, in 1901, "was the Minister of State, with whom I had all my official intercourse. Physically and intellectually he is a superb man. With enlightened views, varied experience, unusual ability, unquestioned patriotism, unfailing suavity and courtesy of manner, it was a pleasure to deal with him; and our relations were most cordial. In politics, he is a Liberal, such as one would class with Asquith, Morley and Bannerman in England. . . . During the Spanish-American War he was Secretary for the Colonies, and would have favored large concessions to Cuba. In May, 1888, he said Cuba should be Americanized. If in the course of years it desired independence, such was the course of life. To give up Cuba then would be the overthrow of the monarchy; and in these utterances his chief, Sagasta, agreed. I am sure that to have allowed Cuba to hold the relation to Spain, that Canada does to England, would not have been objectionable. The insular American possessions, being the last of Spain's continental dominion, were regarded with special pride, and the sensitiveness of the people could not brook such a loss."

Of Moret, Curry writes further, elsewhere:—

My cordial and pleasant official relations with, and warm personal friendship for Señor Moret, and his desire to accommodate the diplomatic corps, and to finish the work in his department, did not cure him of the incurable Spanish habit of not doing to-day what can be deferred until to-morrow. As in the East the first and last word a traveller hears is *backsheesh*, so in Spain the first and last word is *mañana*. My diary shows numerous interviews

with the Secretary; as many unkept appointments; and when conferences were held, final issues were not reached, generally because of this national habit. The experience of my colleagues was the same as mine.

The traditional and distinguishing Spanish characteristic of putting off till to-morrow everything possible which might be done to-day is dwelt upon by Curry in many of his letters from Madrid, and in his other Spanish *memorabilia*; and it is worthy of remark that he should have accomplished so much in a diplomatic way in the teeth of such unfavorable conditions. But he was a diplomat by nature and cultivation, though with no lack of frankness and candor in all his diplomatic life. His long habitude of dealing with men had cultivated in him the patience and perseverance and sweet serenity of temper which were parts of his original nature; and, through this happy union of natural and acquired qualities, he was enabled, as a foreign minister, to merit the high praise bestowed upon him by his chief, Secretary Bayard, who, before his experience at Madrid was a year old, wrote to him in a private letter:—

It is not invidious to say you have accomplished more in your single year than your predecessors in twenty years.

During his stay at Madrid, Curry kept up a regular correspondence with his son, Manly, who then resided at St. Paul; and his letters, thus written, without reserve, possess much of the charm that spontaneity must give to all letter-writing.

"I make it a rule," he said in one of these epistles, "to send you at least one letter a week. Sometimes, as I usually write a little every day, I do more."

Many of these weekly letters were lost or destroyed; but those that remain contain much that is of interest. In one of them the writer gives a vivid and pleasing picture of the Spanish Congress, and of some of its leading figures.

The last two afternoons I have attended the sessions of Congress, which is a National Debating Society. For some weeks the body has been engaged in verifying their credentials, and discussing the speech from the Throne, which is a sort of Ministerial or Governmental platform. The room,—or the seats, rather,—are semi-circular. A part of the front row is occupied by the Ministers, who are provided with desks. Under every seat is a drawer, and a little writing-shelf can be raised. I have seen no one reading a newspaper, or a book, except for reference. I counted over fifty bald heads. Very meagre notes are used. I have seen no manuscripts. As with us and the House of Commons, and unlike the Assembly in France, every member speaks from his seat. Spaniards are garrulous and voluble, and their speeches are generally long; but there is no scrambling over the “floor” as with us. In Washington a hundred voices will scream out “Mr. Speaker!” Here, one very quietly is recognized; and there is evidently a pre-arrangement as to who shall speak, and a preference given to Ministers.

The Chair seems to have much power. He uses a larger bell as a gavel, and a smaller bell to summon some one to do his bidding. There are no pages; and generally the body is very orderly. One day I heard Lopez Dominguez, the leader of the “Dynastic Left,” and a reply by the Minister of Grace and Justice. Yesterday I heard Salmeron, the leader of the small band of Republicans, and a reply by my friend, Moret. Salmeron is an able man,—speaks well and deliberately, with self-control. He assailed Monarchy, and his speech commanded attention and excited contentions. When he finished, some of his band hugged

and kissed him. Moret speaks distinctly, gracefully, rapidly, eloquently. He elicited much applause from his Liberal supporters, and even from Conservatives. . . .

Yesterday p. m. Mary accompanied me to Congress, and we heard Castelar, the distinguished Republican, of whom I wrote some time ago. Enthusiasts (see *March Century*, 1886) write of him as the Orator of Humanity,—as the peculiar, unparalleled product of Spanish environment. I was disappointed. He is full of poetry, imagination, fervor. He has read widely, and his language is full, chaste, appropriate. He is the most impassioned speaker I ever heard,—rants excessively, gesticulates vehemently and ludicrously. The pantomime—and it was not much more to me in my unfamiliarity with the language, and my bad position for hearing—was not effective. His voice was not distinct nor musical, probably the result of hoarseness, and the use of too much fluid. (*Do not misunderstand me: he is very temperate; does not smoke nor even drink wine, and that in Spain is something unique.*) I was not moved. I have heard men in a foreign tongue, who, by voice or acting, stirred me. Castelar did not. He is not to be compared to Yancey. Who is? . . .

Curry's judgment of Castelar was not that of his contemporaries; nor is it likely to be that of posterity. Of all the Europeans of his day, no orator has left a more pronounced reputation for unusual and gifted eloquence than the Spaniard, Emilio Castelar. "Athens," say his countrymen, "had its Demosthenes, Rome its Cicero; and we have our Castelar"; and if the majestic company in which they place him may seem to the casual reader an exaggeration of his powers, he undoubtedly wielded the stirring oratory that of right belongs always to the history of the minority, as the most



thrilling poetry belongs to the story of the conquered.

Mr. Adee, whom Curry has mentioned as the Assistant Secretary of State of the United States at the time of his appointment to Madrid, and who was *chargé d'affaires* at Madrid fifteen years before Curry was made Minister, has written of Castelar:—

I saw him make his famous speech on the bill for Cuban emancipation. Madrid was agog for weeks beforehand. It was announced that Castelar was to make the grandest effort of his life. Tickets for the galleries were eagerly sought. Every deputy was in his seat, every nook was filled. The initial proceedings interested no one. A Spaniard said to me: "All Madrid has come to a Castelar matinee."

"Of the character of his oratory," continues Mr. Adee, "it is not easy to speak. His discourses do not bear close analysis. Canovas, Alonza Martinez, Sagasta, Martos, and many others are his masters in debate. In fact Castelar is not a good debater. Set speeches are his peculiar province. I have heard it said that they are written and committed to memory. Taken unawares by a shrewd logician, whom florid generalities will not silence, he does not show to advantage."

Yet after all, real oratory is not of the logician. The fervid passion of O'Connell, the stirring speech of Thomas Francis Meagher, the sonorous and splendid diction of John Mitchel, all illustrate how far apart are the cold, calm, clear cut logic of the scientist, the reasoner, the casuist, and the emotional eloquence of that indescribable oratory which stirs and thrills the hearts and souls of those who hear it.

Curry himself appears to have modified his opinion of Castelar; for two years later he wrote:—

He and Moret were the best speakers in the Cortes. One speech of Castelar's which I had the pleasure of hearing was a wonderful triumph of oratory. For fifteen minutes after he closed, the hurrahs and *vivas* were kept up tumultuously; and Sagasta, the Prime Minister, crossed the Chamber and embraced him.

Of other Spanish statesmen of the day Curry wrote interestingly to his son:—

We also heard for an hour Canovas, the head of the late ministry. He is probably the ablest man in Spain; is not an orator, but spoke well. The Republican leader, Salmeron, having characterized him as a "modern Torquemada," the reply was sarcastic and severe. Canovas is the most interesting dinner-companion I have met in Spain.

Of Canovas, Curry at a later date wrote to his son:—

"Canovas, the leader of the Conservatives, lately sent me a good photograph, with his autograph. A good saying is attributed to him in reference to Castelar's well-known vanity, and peacockish display."

And he repeats the story which he had written to Mr. Winthrop about "the bridegroom" and "the corpse."

During the hot season, when "Castilian Days" at their best were almost unendurable, Curry and his wife fled to the mountains, or to the seashore, as the impulse moved them. From Biarritz, beloved of American tourists, he wrote his son, Manly, a letter in September, 1886, which is full of interest, as illustrating the attitude of his mind toward the morality of the day. His view of art may seem unc cosmopolitan, but it may at least be conceded to have been sincere; and if Matthew Arnold's stigmatism of Henry Ward Beecher as "a heated bar-

barian," was in any sense just, it may be said of Curry, a typical American of his time, that if in the estimate of cultured Europeans he was "barbarian"—of the "hoi barbaroi" in the real Greek sense—he was at least not a "heated" one.

"You know," he writes to his son, Manly, after attending a grand opera at Biarritz, "I am no judge of music; and so I omit any expression of opinion; but the scenery was elaborate and beautiful, the tableaux like fairy works; and the dancing sylph-like and graceful. I am, however, such an 'old foggy,' as not to approve so much nudity and such studied exposure of person. After much observation and reflection, while relaxing my rigid notions in some particulars, I am forced to conclude that the nudity in pictures and statues, the suggestive half-concealments and half-exposures, in art, in dances, in much fashionable dressing, have a very deleterious influence on personal purity and national morals. The reply is quick, I know, 'To the pure all things are pure,' and '*Honi soit qui mal y pense*' as the motto of the Knights of the Garter phrases it; but man is a poor, frail fallible creature, with strong appetites and passions, with dominant tendencies to evil; and the history of Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Greece and old Rome, shows a depravation of morals, and an amount of conjugal infidelity and personal impurity that, so far, England and the United States are comparatively free from. When I see the American youth of both sexes, who were trained in pure religious homes, standing for hours before the inimitable productions of Titian's pencil, or ancient sculptors, or seeing the exhibitions on the stage, I shudder, because I know that an impure thought cherished, wicked passion conceived, is a heritage of misery, and a source of corruption. My objections will be hooted at; but sneers and ridicule are not arguments, and do not reverse the unchangeable records of history."

Another letter to his son suggests memories of an illustrious Virginia scholar and historian, whose learning has preserved the names of many of the earlier Virginians,—the Honorable Hugh Blair Grigsby.

“I have just finished my letter to dear Mr. Winthrop,” he writes to Manly Curry on July 4th, 1886.

“He and Mr. Grigsby had a habit of writing to each other every Fourth; and when Grigsby died, I fell heir to the privilege. Virginia and Massachusetts should lock hands every Fourth. My foreign residence and representative character intensify my patriotism. A contrast betwixt people and institutions in the United States makes me more and more in love with America and our representative free governments.”

The roster of Curry's correspondents, as illustrated in his letter-books of the period, constitutes a shining bed-roll, the simple mention of whose names must cause regret that the limits of this volume do not admit the publication of their letters. Among them, after Mr. Winthrop's, are those of Secretary Bayard, General Armstrong of the Hampton School, Señor Moret, Dr. John A. Broadus, President Cleveland, General Joseph E. Johnston, Assistant Secretary Adees, Hon. John W. Foster, Alexander Brown the Virginia historian, James Russell Lowell, E. J. Phelps, Francis Wharton, Señor Sagasta, Señor Castelar, Dr. Josiah Strong, Señor Salmerón, Gen. Sickles, William Wirt Henry, William A. Courtenay, Sir Philip H. W. Currie, Richmond Pearson, and others scarcely less well known.

Of Mr. Winthrop his admiration was ever increasing, and not infrequently expressed. In August, 1886, he wrote to his son, Manly, “Mr. Winthrop has sent me another volume of his speeches. His



intellectual and beneficent activity shames me. He might plead the infirmities of age, and point proudly to the work achieved; but he practically says reprovingly to the less laborious and useful young, 'I must be about my Father's business';" and in the following November he writes to Winthrop himself, with the unreserved frankness of affection:—

We felt sure your thoughtful kindness would not forget your far-away friends, and we were not disappointed; for in good time came the printed address of yourself and the Report of Dr. Green, and then one of your unapproachable letters. The letters of Byron, Gray, Walpole, Lady Mary Montagu, have worldwide celebrity; but a judicious collection of yours would take the highest rank in the Literature of Letters.

The industry and intellectual activity which Curry praised in Winthrop were never wanting in his own case. His energetic diplomacy at Madrid still left him the time, which the busiest man always finds, for yet other business; and during his occupation of the Spanish mission he made a study of the Spanish constitutions, the result of which he compressed into a volume of three hundred pages under the title, "Constitutional Government in Spain." This book was published in 1889 by the Harpers. From the Spanish records, too, he prepared and contributed to the *Magazine of American History* a paper on "The Acquisition of Florida"; and he wrote an introduction for Dr. Armitage's "History of the Baptists." It was with the pride and pleasure that spring from old associations that he saw at this time his public and literary distinction recognized and acknowledged by the University of Georgia, the home of his first intellectual triumphs. On the

13th of July, 1887, the Chancellor of the University wrote to him as follows:—

I have the honor and the pleasure to inform you that the Trustees of the University of Georgia have this day conferred upon you the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Your Alma Mater hopes that her gifted and distinguished son will accept this deserved honor at her hands.

The Currys had spent the summer of 1886 in Southern France; and the next summer had returned to the United States for a visit. The summer of 1888 saw their career in Spain drawing to a close. The earlier months of the season were passed in travelling in Austria, Italy and Switzerland; and in August, Curry sent to Washington the resignation of his commission of Minister to Spain. It was "accepted with regret"; and in September he sailed from Havre for America, leaving Mrs. Curry in Paris for a stay of a month or two longer. On the 26th of September, 1888, he called on Mr. Bayard, the Secretary of State, and upon the day following on President Cleveland.

Two days later he "closed up his accounts," as he phrases it, at the State Department.

The verdict of the administration which he had served was rendered in the following letters from the Secretary of State and from the President:—

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON, October 27, 1888.

J. L. M. CURRY, ESQ.,  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

SIR:—When I received your dispatch of August 6th last, tendering your resignation of the office of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United

States to Spain, to take effect on September 5th last, you informed me that you were then upon the eve of departing from Madrid for Switzerland, under your leave of absence, and requested a short reply by telegraph, addressed to you at Geneva; and signified your willingness to receive a more formal reply after you should have returned to the United States.

In consonance with your wishes, I telegraphed you the President's reluctant acceptance of your resignation, and the regret I felt in communicating it.

It is not alone that I feel a personal loss in your withdrawal from a service in the Department of which I am the head, but the country at large is a loser by your retirement.

The confidence felt in your ability and patriotism, which caused your selection for an important diplomatic position, has been fully justified by your performance of its duties.

The impairment of your health by the unfavorable climate of Madrid, to which alone I must attribute your resignation, I trust will be speedily restored in your native land; and with sincere thanks for your honorable and efficient service to the country, I am sincerely and most truly yours,

T. F. BAYARD.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 1888.

HON. J. L. M. CURRY.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I shall not feel satisfied until I say to you more fully than I have already done, that it is with the utmost regret that I permit you to sever your relation to our Diplomatic Service. Your representation of the Government at the Court of Spain has been so satisfactory in all respects, that I should be constrained to ask you to reconsider your determination to vacate your official post, if it was based

upon anything less personal and important than your health.

I hope that the resumption of your former duties at home will be attended by great satisfaction to yourself and great progress in the cause of education, which you have had for so many years sincerely at heart.

Yours very truly,

GROVER CLEVELAND.



## CHAPTER XVII

### THE PEABODY FUND AGAIN

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND's felicitation of Curry upon his educational work was a fair expression of the thought of many friends of education in America, and especially in the States of the South. As long as a year before his final resignation of the mission to Spain Curry had expressed to Mr. Winthrop his desire to take up the General Agency of the Peabody Fund again; and the venerable president of the Peabody Board had hailed the prospect with delight.

MADRID, 28 April, 1887.

DEAR MR. WINTHROP:

. . . And now for a suggestion; which I have not discussed with Mrs. Curry, between whom and myself there are never any reserves in matters relating to personal duties and interests.

My mission here has been a success; but for a year or two I see little to be done beyond routine work and a "masterly inactivity" in watching the progress of events, so as to allow the Republic to suffer no detriment. While my health is perfectly restored, it has been accomplished by flying from Madrid in winter and early spring months. The climate here is treacherous and dangerous; and I have been seriously debating in my mind, whether the remaining years of my life should not be given to my country, within the limits and on the soil of that country. It therefore has occurred to me to mention to you, and

only to you, whether, if in the coming Peabody year an Agent is to be appointed, I might not say, that as at present advised, I would not be unwilling to consider, with favorable prepossessions, a proposition to resume my former connection with the Fund.

I mention this that you may think of it, and that we may talk it over, knowing that you will honor me with your usual frankness and wisdom, having reference to myself personally and the interests of the work.

Mrs. Curry, as I wrote to you on the 4th inst., will sail from Liverpool on the "Adriatic" the 25th of May, in company with Dr. Field, and I have written to engage my passage on the "Etruria" for the 6th of August.

Yours sincerely,

J. L. M. CURRY.

The HON. ROBT. C. WINTHROP,  
Boston, Mass.

To this letter Mr. Winthrop had replied:—

BROOKLINE, MASS.

24 May, 1887.

DEAR MR. CURRY:

. . . He (Dr. Green) concurs with me heartily in the desire to reinstate you in the General Agency, and then to leave you to find a Chancellor for the Nashville Normal,—holding the place yourself until you have found the right man. Of course the Trustees must ratify such a proceeding, but there cannot be a doubt of their entire readiness and eagerness to do so; and I hope we may consider the matter settled. I had begun to be very uneasy about the future of our Board. Many things had concurred to make me anxious. I will not go into details. I can now see the way clear. With the arrangement once more in your hands, I should be ready to sing a *Nunc Dimittis*, and to depart in peace . . . Every-

body, South and North, has confidence in you for this great Education Trust. You will have heard from Gov. Porter on the subject. Dr. Lindsley and Mr. Jones have written to me and to him, earnestly calling for you. The newspapers have begun to discuss it. I will not say more to-day, but I hope and trust that you will come over in August with a full willingness and purpose to resume the General Agency, and to carry the Trust through to its limited end. I wish you were embarking to-morrow with Mrs. Curry, so that there would be more time for arrangement before our Annual Meeting. . . .

Yours sincerely,

ROBT. C. WINTHROP.

H. E.

J. L. M. CURRY.

Curry returned in August; and they "talked it over" in all of its details. During this visit home the dissensions and troubles, which had temporarily arisen between the Tennessee State Board of Education and the Peabody Board over the Normal College at Nashville, were adjusted; and Dr. Payne, through Curry's instrumentality, was made the President of the College. So that Curry's return to his post at Madrid was with the assurance that when his diplomatic labors should end, he could take up again, where he had left it off, the work in which his heart was more warmly enlisted than it had ever been in any other.

In the following May, he wrote to Mr. Winthrop from Madrid:—

We are making our arrangements for returning in August. I feel a strong desire to get back to the work I love so much, and to have a nearer association with you. If I can, as General Agent, act on the lines you approve

for cultivating a larger and intenser patriotism, and for keeping up a constant pressure in the direction of instructed public opinion, I shall be happy. To write a history of the Trust is also a cherished desire; but I wish to execute it thoroughly and conscientiously, so as to give satisfaction to the Trustees, do justice to Mr. Peabody, and stimulate a healthier public sentiment.

In less than three weeks after his return home from Spain, he was again at work as General Agent of the Peabody Fund.

The meeting, which welcomed Curry back to his old work, was held, according to custom, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York; Mr. Winthrop inducted him into his old work in these gracious words:—

*“Gentlemen of the Peabody Board of Trustees:*

*“It is a matter of special satisfaction and gratification to me this morning that I am privileged to welcome the reappearance among us of our friend, Dr. Curry, and to announce to you that after three years of valuable service as the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of Madrid, he has resigned that office, and has returned home to resume his labors in the great cause of education, as the General Agent of the Peabody Trust.*

*“The business of our Board, as you know, since Dr. Curry withdrew from our service in October, 1885, has been conducted by our faithful and untiring Secretary, Dr. Green, as General Agent, *pro tempore*; and to him our most grateful acknowledgments are due for his devoted and efficient labors,—voluntarily assumed and performed as labors of love, and thus saving no inconsiderable amount of our restricted income for appropriation to the Southern Schools. Dr. Green has, however, come to the conclusion with me that for the entire success of our work there is now a positive need of committing our General Agency anew to an accomplished Southern man of large*



personal experience in educational matters in the Southern States, and of special gifts for communicating the results of that experience to his fellow-workers in the same field,—such a man as Dr. Curry abundantly proved himself to be during the four years of his previous service. With the full understanding, therefore, of what was hoped and expected, authority was given to me at our last meeting to appoint a General Agent, under the advice of the Executive Committee, whenever I should think it best to do so. Under that authority, Dr. Curry has been appointed, and has accepted the appointment. With him once more at the helm, I feel assured that we shall hold on our track successfully to the end. . . .” (*Peabody Proceedings*, Vol. IV, pp. 3, 4.)

The note of satisfaction in the President’s brief address, at getting their General Agent again “in the traces,” was echoed in the public and private expressions that accompanied his restoration. Notably among these was a letter from the Rev. John A. Broadus.

LOUISVILLE, Oct. 11, 1888.

DEAR BROTHER CURRY:

I am glad to think of you as at home in our own country again, and again wielding all the educational influence you must have as manager of the Peabody Fund. I think our Southern countrymen have gone just far enough in respect of popular education to be in pressing and urgent need of going further. There is no man living who can exert so wide and wholesome an influence among them as you can do, in the position you hold, and with all your eloquence, wisdom and personal prestige. Pardon me. I should not know how to use words of compliment to you. I am only speaking of facts.

I notice the suggestion, that you may make Washington your home, and think of that idea also with pleasure; al-

though, as a Virginian, I should sympathize with the Richmond folks in losing your residence. Washington would give certain advantages for making your educational work. It would bring you into free association with the administration and the legislators, who might in numerous ways profit by your wisdom and experience as a statesman. And you could do no little good there as a Baptist. I preached four Sundays at the Calvary Church the past summer, and got the conception that Washington Baptists have decided possibilities of development. . . .

Your Friend and Brother,

JOHN A. BROADUS.

HON. J. L. M. CURRY.

Of his second period of service under the Peabody Board, and indeed of his general relations to that Trust, and to that of the Slater Fund, Curry has left among his papers some notes that are of interest and value, and that have hitherto remained unpublished.

Scrupulously, in the discharge of my duties, as General Manager of the Peabody and the Slater Funds, I have not permitted any political or sectional or denominational considerations to enter into, or influence, in the slightest degree, my action. With State Superintendents, whether Republican or Democratic, my relations have been cordial. Official intercourse has ripened into personal friendship; and Mason and Dixon's line, as I wrote to an applicant for appointment as conductor of an institute, did not now run through political geography, and with my consent should never run through Grammar and Arithmetic. . . . When Dr. Stearns, the first President (of the Peabody Normal College) died, Mr. Winthrop put it upon me to find and to recommend to the Trustees a proper successor. The choice fell on Dr. William H. Payne of Michigan, and the Trustees sanctioned by an election the recommen-

dation. . . . As indicative of the Catholic policy of the Trustees, and of my spirit and aim, I may say that when submitting the proposition to Dr. Payne to become the President, I enjoined him not to let me know what were his political or denominational preferences.

One college, to which State scholarships were assigned, was not considered adequate to the needs; and State Normal Schools were soon organized after my earnest advocacy and promise of aid from the Fund. For the further advancement of the qualification of teachers, summer schools were encouraged and aided. A few public schools in the several States were aided under conditions of free tuition, a local tax and nine months' session. From the organization of the Trust, a rule now generally known as the Peabody rule, and frequently adopted, has been rigorously applied, of helping those who help themselves. This largely increases the gifts to schools and secures local vigilance and increased interest in education. In my ministry of education, travelling from Potomac to Rio Grande, inspecting schools and colleges, stimulating hope and courage and progress, I have made hundreds of educational speeches, and addressed, some times several times, every Southern legislature. These addresses have been widely circulated, and they and my Annual Reports, now contained in four volumes, are, in connection with the invaluable volumes of the Bureau of Education, probably the most complete history of education in the Southern States. . . .

As frequent inquiries are made of me as to the mode of selecting schools for Peabody aid, the amount given, and the transmission of the money, it may be as well to say that *all* power in the management of the Fund is reposed in the hands of the Trustees, who meet annually to receive and pass upon the report of the Treasurer and General Agent, and to transact such other business as to them may seem necessary. Very large discretion is given to the General Agent in deciding upon the disbursement of the annual

income which, in the autumn, he is notified will be available, at different periods in the coming year, for school purposes. Taking that amount as the basis of action, the General Agent makes a schedule of appropriations covering the entire amount. From time to time, according to what may be available in different months, a requisition, specifying schools, is submitted to the Executive and the Finance Committees. When they approve, as in no instance they have failed to do, the requisition is sent to the Treasurer, . . . and he promptly notifies me that the amount asked for has been placed in the bank to my credit. Checks are drawn on the bank for sums approved in favor of the President of the Normal College, or of the State Superintendents of Education. This confinement to Superintendents is because the Peabody Fund is given only in aid of institutions entirely, or in part controlled by the States. For these checks duplicate receipts are returned, one of which is retained, and the other accompanies my annual account as a voucher for auditing.

Curry carried his resolution to avoid political partisanry so far, that in the Presidential campaign of 1888, in which Mr. Cleveland was again nominated for the presidency of the Republic, although often urged to go upon the hustings, he refrained save in the single instance of making a campaign speech a day or two before the election to his friends and neighbors in Richmond. Yet there is no doubt that the politics of the period interested him tremendously. He had written to the President in December, 1887, with reference to the Annual Message to Congress:—

“You have drawn the attention of the country from ‘the bloody shirt,’ from sectional passion and hate, to practical measures, to fundamental principles;” and in the same letter he spoke of the



message in terms which evinced the unabated fires of his earlier democracy. After stating that until the day previous to the date of his letter, when the New York papers had brought the full text of the message, of which he had only seen an abstract in the London *Times*, he continues:—

The completed paper confirms the opinion derived from the summary. It is clear, courageous, statesmanlike. Judged from this point of view, I would not change a word. It has the ring of the good old democratic days of the Republic. It reminds me of the utterances of Polk, Wright and Woodbury. I should like to make a hundred speeches in the Presidential campaign with that message as a platform.

The message discussed the great question of Federal Taxation from the standpoint of a tariff for revenue; and it became in reality, the platform of Mr. Cleveland's party in the ensuing presidential election, when that issue became "paramount." Immediately upon Curry's landing in New York, he had been solicited by the democratic campaign managers to enter the canvass; and it may well be imagined that the old spirit of the political debater stirred him deeply. But he had made up his mind to return to what Mr. Winthrop habitually spoke of as "The Great Cause"—the work of the Peabody Fund; and his wise conception of the duty which he owed that work forbade his entrance upon the field of partisan political debate. He stuck to the text which he had laid down for his guidance as Peabody Agent, with a persistence which did not gainsay any political conviction, while it vindicated the sanity of his judgment.

The ill-health, which had apparently been first

engendered in Spain, returned to Curry at various times in 1889 and 1890, and interfered seriously with his work; so that from this time on to the end of his busy career, he was a sufferer. It was probably one of these acute attacks which elicited from Mr. Winthrop in January, 1890, the sentiment:—

I wish we had an insurance on your life,—not one from any earthly office, but from the Great Disposer,—so that I might be assured that you would have the final executorship of the Trust. What may happen to me is of little moment.

Although Curry, as above stated, made it his habit to eschew the activities of party politics, after associating himself with the Peabody Trust, he nevertheless did not hesitate to grapple boldly with any question of education, without regard to its creation of partisan feeling. This is strikingly illustrated in his relation to what is generally known in the political history of the period as "The Blair Bill."

During the session of Congress which met December 3, 1883, the Republican Senate passed the Blair Education Bill, the purpose of which was to give from the Federal Treasury certain sums of money for the promotion of education in various States, the distribution to be made according to the percentages of illiteracy in the populations. It was defeated in the Democratic House of Representatives, of which Mr. Carlisle was then the Speaker. In 1888 it again passed the Senate by a diminished majority, and was again defeated in the House. But Democrats and Republicans were alike divided on the measure; and Curry, though never recanting his adherence to the Calhoun theories of constitutional construction,

espoused the cause of the Blair Bill with enthusiasm. In the fall of 1889 he published widely in the newspapers appeals for National Aid to Education. These were preliminary to a pamphlet which he later addressed to Congress. Mr. Winthrop approved of the preparation of this pamphlet, although it does not appear that he knew of its exact language. In it Curry referred to his connection with the Peabody Fund. The effect of the pamphlet on the Peabody Board was to cause one of its most distinguished members to threaten resignation. As soon as Curry caught the wind, he was also ready to resign as General Agent; and Mr. Winthrop seems to have been in great distress. The "prominent member" objected, in a personal letter to the President of the Board, to the pamphlet, which was addressed as "An Appeal to Southern Representatives in Congress and to the Friends of Free Schools in the South," on the grounds, first, of the "sectional" reference; second, because Curry referred to himself in the circular as General Agent of the Peabody Fund. Winthrop prevented the threatened resignation by showing this recalcitrant member that the Board had years before, on the initiative of the Hon. Alex. H. Stuart of Virginia, put themselves on record as favoring "National Aid," and that Curry's action had been that of an individual rather than in his representative capacity. The trouble was healed; and Mr. Winthrop wrote of its conclusion to Curry: "*Deus dat his quoque finem!*"

But Winthrop himself had been as eager for the passage of the Blair Bill as had been Curry; and its defeat once more, in March, 1890, elicited from him the following letter:—

BOSTON, MASS.,  
21 March, 1890.

DEAR DR. CURRY:

This morning's papers have just announced to me the defeat of the Blair Bill. It is no surprise to me. I have long felt that the measure was doomed. I do not envy those who have killed it. Sherman's vote has astonished—I may better say, astounded—me. Evarts made an excellent speech but did not convince even his colleague Hiscock. Hawley seems to have struck the fatal blow. I am sorry it should have been wielded by a New England man. But after all, the death of the measure will always lie at the door of Carlisle and Randall, who for successive sessions have smothered the Bill in the House. It ought to have passed by a unanimous vote in both branches several years ago. Its passage now, by the casting vote of the Vice-president, or by any meagre majority, would have been anything but satisfactory.

I have always thought and said that the South could have the National Aid, if their Senators and Representatives would demand and sustain it. Daniel and Barbour, and others from the South, have done excellent work for it. . . .

ROBT. C. WINTHROP.

Curry had written to Winthrop a month earlier, in explanation of his pamphlet, that he had addressed it to the "Southern Representatives" and to the "Friends of Free Schools in the South," because he felt that he could make an appeal to them "as a Southern man, alike concerned with them in the proper adjustment of the most terrible problem that Civilization and Free Institutions ever encountered."

But, after all is said, the element of Education was not the only one that entered into the national legis-



lative dealings with the Blair Bill; and it was not solely the work of the two democratic Speakers of the House which killed it, as Mr. Winthrop thought. The old, irrepressible doctrine of the rights of the States, which must last as long as the written Constitution of our government retains significance, counted for more in the contest over the Blair Bill than the casual observer may have thought; and though disciples of Calhoun, like Curry, supported it, there can be little doubt that its final defeat may be conservatively attributed to the constitutional objection of its opponents. It may be said that the Blair Bill was submitted to the judgment of Congress from high, just motives; and, whatever the political view of it, there can be but little doubt that its defeat retarded educational development in the South seriously for two generations.

Later in the year 1890 the opportunity was offered Curry, and accepted by him, of enlarging his educational work in the South, with an especial view to "the adjustment of the most terrible problem that Civilization and Free Institutions ever encountered," as he had phrased it to Winthrop, and the consideration of which had caused the latter to say to the former in a letter dated Sept. 6, 1890: "Oh, that the Ethiopian could change his skin! If there were any mode of bleaching the negro, our land would be at peace." Under date of October 31, 1890, Curry writes in his diary:—

At Rennert Hotel in Baltimore met President Hayes by appointment, who wished to urge my acceptance of an appointment as Chairman of Committee of Education of Slater Fund, to manage that as I have the Peabody.

Held the matter under consideration.

November 5, left (Richmond) for New York.

Had an interview with Mr. Winthrop in reference to my acceptance of the administration of the Slater Fund. Much gratified at offer. Approves my taking it if the labor be not too great.

November 25, . . . Agreed to accept the position.

Shortly before his death, Curry wrote the following account of his election as Manager of the Slater Fund, and of the nature and uses of the Fund itself:—

On the 30th October, 1890, President Hayes, who was President of the Slater Board, wrote to Mr. Winthrop, the Chairman of the Peabody Trustees:—

“The General Agent of the John F. Slater Education Fund has been chosen Bishop of the Methodist Church, South. This deprives the Board of the services of Bishop Haygood. With entire unanimity the Slater Board now prefer that Dr. Curry, the Agent of the Peabody Board, should take up the work laid down by Bishop Haygood. He is elected a member of the Slater Board, and is made Chairman of its Educational Committee, and will have an assistant. Both the Chief Justice and myself approved of the plan, and I am very solicitous that it will meet your approval. Dr. Curry will write you in regard to it. Indeed, he will abide by your judgment in the matter.”

The Peabody Board assenting, I accepted the position of Chairman of the Educational Committee, with the general powers and duties exercised by Bishop Haygood. The sphere of operation of the two Funds, and the general objects being partially the same,—the Peabody Fund being for the benefit of both races, and the Slater for the colored people,—it seemed, as has proved to be true, that the administration being in the same hands, the one somewhat supplementing the other, there would be no conflict, but increased efficiency.

The Slater Board in entrusting the general management

of the educational problems to a new Agency, declared that it favored the policy of concentration upon a comparatively small number of institutions, especially deserving encouragement, paying attention to geographical position, to business methods, to service rendered in training of teachers, and to efforts made in the promotion of industrial training. Much has been said and done in connection with industrial training in schools; and not a few unwarrantable claims have been made as to earliest suggestion and introduction. The Slater Trustees do not make any such pretensions as to originating what has long had advocacy and adoption; but it can with truth be said that since the organization of the Fund aid has uniformly been conditioned upon industrial instruction. In the Reports annually made to the Trustees, and in the occasional papers which the Fund had published, there have been in the presentation of the Negro problem, strongest insistence, for national, social, moral, individual reasons, upon industrial and manual training, and upon better preparation of teachers for their great work. The author of this sketch would not presumptuously claim any undue merit, but he confidently appeals to the published and emphatic testimonials, borne to the value of his work and counsels by the principals of Tuskegee, Spelman, Hampton, Claflin, Tongaloo, and other colored schools.

It may be pardonable vanity to record the fact that in Marion, Ala., in 1866, aided by Gov. Moore and Drs. McIntosh and Raymond, the pastors of the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches, a meeting was called which passed resolutions, prepared and introduced by myself, favoring the education of the colored people by the white people of the South.

Dr. Booker T. Washington, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, the most far-seeing man of his race in his generation in America, has paid eloquent tribute to this view of Curry's, with regard to what should

constitute the right education of the colored people of the South, in a monograph entitled "Education of the Negro," in President Nicholas Murray Butler's "Education in the United States". In a brief letter of this period, Washington summarizes his philosophy of the training of his race in a striking sentence:—

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Oct. 24, 1898.

DR. J. L. M. CURRY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR:

Your check for the first quarter's Slater Fund money has been received and we are most grateful.

I am very glad that you like my Chicago address. It was one of the very few times that I have ever referred to race prejudice, because I realize that it is a thing that must be *lived* down, not *talked* down. I referred to it as much for the benefit of the white man as for the black man. The President seemed greatly pleased with what I said.

Yours sincerely,  
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

President Angell adds his approbation of Curry's views on Negro education in the following letter:—

ANN ARBOR, Dec. 26, 1895.

MY DEAR DR. CURRY:

I have read your Report and your Slater Paper on Negro Education with great interest, as I read all your writings on these subjects. I have not been in the far South since the War, and cannot well judge of the difficult features of the problem. But I know they are difficult, and I am glad to have the results of your study and observation. I have often raised in my own mind some questions as to the true functions of the schools, which our religious bodies are, with the highest motives, supporting in the



South. It will be a great relief to us, if the South can herself take them off our hands, and provide the needed education. If not, then a wise co-ordination of them with the public school system should be sought. I take it, there must be some provision for training colored teachers and preachers. I often quote, and I shall never forget, a striking remark which you made at my house: "It must be eternally right to Christianize and to educate the Negro."

Yours very truly,

JAMES B. ANGELL.

That the Negro needed and needs to be both Christianized and educated was never doubted by Curry from the dark days of his first citizenship, when, out of the Egyptian blackness of bondage and comparative heathenism, he was suddenly invested with all the rights and duties of American citizenship. That he could be both Christianized and educated, and that upon his Christianization and his right education rested the hope of his race, and the safety and prosperity of the white race with whom he dwelt, were likewise maintained by Curry, with a zeal and enthusiasm that remained unabated to the end, and were worthy of the praise that such lofty and unselfish zeal and enthusiasm should always command.

In "the Publications of the Southern History Association" for March, 1901, more than five years after the date of Dr. Angell's letter, is given an account of a meeting at Montgomery, Alabama, in May, 1900,—a "conference on the race problems of the South," which was attended by and enlisted the most earnest consideration and thought of some of the best intellects of the country, North and South; among others who participated in its deliberation

being W. Bourke Cockran, Herbert Welsh, Hilary A. Herbert, Clifton R. Breckinridge, Paul B. Barringer, H. B. Frizell, J. D. Dreher, A. M. Waddell, and J. L. M. Curry. The account states that "the overruling note sounding through all their words was pessimistic. Economically, morally, religiously, even physically, this sad key was struck time and again. There was one variation of relief to the solemn strain, the hope placed on the uplifting power of education. Especially was this emphasized by Dr. Curry."

With all of his ceaseless work, held to its highest pitch by the enthusiastic will—the *vis a tergo*—of an unbending and dauntless courage, he found from year to year, as the busy man always finds, new time for other and newer work.

In a letter to Winthrop he writes:—

This week I attended the Commencement of the Normal School at Farmville. As I drew the bill for the organization of the School and the Peabody Fund has been helpful in its assistance, I have consented to continue as Trustee, while firmly declining the Presidency of the Board.

On October 7, 1891, Curry was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Peabody Board, to continue in that position so long as he should remain General Agent of the Fund. On the next day he attended a meeting, held in New York City, of the Educational Committee of the Slater Fund, of which Committee he was the chairman. Meetings of the Slater Board, or of the Educational Committee, were held generally twice in each year; and the fall meeting was usually arranged in convenient connection, as to time and place, with the annual meeting of the Peabody Board. The dominating figure among the Slater Trustees was that of Ex-President Hayes,

between whom and Curry, as has heretofore appeared in these pages, had existed a personal friendship since their college days together at Harvard, in the early '40's, which was cemented by their later official associations with the Peabody and Slater Trusts. In November of 1891 Mr. Hayes, upon the invitation of Curry, accompanied him on a visit to the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee; and upon this tour much appeared of a character to interest and please the ex-President.

Curry relates, among others, the following incident of their journey:—

While visiting schools aided from the Slater and Peabody Funds, and studying educational and social problems, the people availed themselves cheerfully of a coveted opportunity of greeting an ex-President, and showing him a grateful appreciation of generous action for their relief from military authority and discriminating disabilities. Riding together near Orangeburg, S. C., and seeing a negro cabin in a cotton patch, he asked whether there would be any impropriety in his entering it, as he had never been inside of such a home. Stopping the carriage, I conducted him to the low, dark, illy-furnished, one-room cabin, in which was a woman, with a very young babe lying in a cradle. He examined the surroundings, asked in kind manner many questions, and as he was leaving gave her a silver dollar. Unobserved by the President, I told the woman who her visitor was, and how highly she had been honored. She broke out into exclamations of wonder and praise, clapping her hands in delight, and then informed the President, arrested by her jubilant cries, that she would give the baby his name.

It was not very long after this that Curry was called upon to assist in paying the last sad tribute of

mortality to his friend. Mr. Hayes died early in January, 1893, and Curry was an honorary pall-bearer at his funeral. As an example of their affectionate relations this kindly letter from Mr. Hayes has interest:—

SPIEGEL GROVE, OHIO, April 20, 1891.

MY DEAR DR. CURRY:

I have read with admiration and pleasure, to the last syllable, your study of Gladstone. It is so wonderfully good that I must be excused for this fervid note. Your little book is most attractive and statesmanlike. Gladstone's matchless career is excellently told. I am, perhaps, less impressed by him than you are. I turned to Macaulay's "Gladstone on Church and State." M. speaks of G.'s language as having "a certain obscure dignity and sanctity." This gives my notion of his style and quality. But only think of M.'s article written in April 1839—52 years ago—in which G. is spoken of as the "rising hope," "the cautious leader," etc., etc., and G. still "on deck" after this lapse of time! Thanks for the book and sincere congratulations on its excellence.

Faithfully,

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

DR. CURRY.

In his journal for the month he records the death of three illustrious acquaintances—that of Rutherford B. Hayes on the 17th; of L. Q. C. Lamar on the 23rd, and of James G. Blaine on the 24th. In a letter to his son, written from Madrid in December, 1886, he compared Mr. Blaine with Mr. Cleveland, thus:—

I am anxious to see the Message of the President. The spoils-hunting Democrats abuse him, but he is a man of deep convictions and of sound principles. He is worth a thousand men like Blaine.



A visit with his wife to Europe in 1892 broke the monotony of his educational and literary labors,—for during his most exacting work as representative of the two great educational trusts which he administered, he found time to do a large amount of literary work of one kind or another; and he enjoyed the rest and recreation of a six months' journey through France, Germany, Turkey, Austria, Italy and Switzerland.

Under date of May 19, 1893, he writes in his journal the following interesting item, illustrating the friendship which may exist between democracy and royalty:—

Infanta Eulalia, Infante Antoine and suite arrived in Washington at 8:10 P. M. We met them at the station, and Infanta gave Mary a double kiss.

This visit of members of the royal Spanish household was incident to the Columbian Exposition at Chicago; and during the latter part of June, at Chicago, the Currys and the royal party were much together.

Among the distinguished guests, who upon occasion attended the annual banquets of the Peabody Board in New York, were the Honorable Joseph Chamberlain, M. P., and his wife, who were present at the banquet of October, 1893.

Curry writes of the Englishman:—

Chamberlain spoke contemptuously of Trevelyan; omitted no opportunity of making a fling at Gladstone; said Pitt was the greatest of English statesmen. The conversation turning on the Presidential exercise of the veto power, I remarked, by way of contrast, that its exercise now in England would come near creating a

revolution, as no sovereign since Queen Anne had interposed the prerogative. To this he promptly and stoutly objected, and said it had been used several times "in this century" to defeat legislation. I knew I was right, but preferred not to controvert the point beyond saying that May's Constitutional History of England was my authority.

This was the last meeting of the Peabody Board at which Mr. Winthrop was present. At the meeting of October, 1894, his address was read, but feeble health prevented his personal attendance. His death occurred but little more than a month later. On November 21 Curry attended his funeral at Trinity Church, Boston.

As above stated, Curry, in the spare moments of his active and busy life, engaged industriously in literary pursuits.

"My diplomatic career leaves this pleasant remembrance," he writes in 1891, "I did aid some historical investigations. Mr. Alexander Brown, Mr. John Mason Brown, Mr. Henry C. Lea, and Mr. J. G. Shea have been privately profuse, two of them publicly grateful, in their expressions of indebtedness for aid I had the happiness to render them in their researches. The Government archives will make no mention of this, but I think I did the country some service in this incidental way."

And at an earlier date he had written:—

Apropos of the 4th of July, I have been able to find in the archives at Seville copies of letters written by Governor Patrick Henry to the Governor of Louisiana, during the Revolutionary War. Our friend, Wm. Wirt Henry, in his diligent search for material for the biography he nearly has ready for the press, of his grandfather, put me

on the track, and I was happy in being able to unearth them. During my residence in Madrid, through the partiality and cheerful co-operation of Spanish officials, I have been successful in furnishing valuable assistance to Shea of New Jersey, the Browns of Kentucky and Virginia, Lea of Philadelphia, Bowen of New York, in their historical researches.

He had, himself, written during his stay at Madrid, "Constitutional Government in Spain," which was published in 1889, and a "Life of William Ewart Gladstone," that came from the press in 1891. In 1894 he had another work ready for publication, on "The Southern States of the American Union," considered in their relation to the constitution of the United States. Following this volume, at intervals of three or four years, two others were given by him to the public. In 1898 appeared from the Cambridge University Press a "Sketch of George Peabody, and a History of the Peabody Education Fund through Thirty Years;" and in 1901 he published his last and perhaps his most valuable work—a "Civil History of the Government of the Confederate States, with some Personal Reminiscences."

Space does not admit of a discussion in these pages of Curry's books. It is sufficient to say of them that they illustrate the writer's industry and ability; and are works of serious purpose and solid merit, though lacking in the charm and attractiveness of his spoken discourse.

Of his volume on "The Southern States of the American Union," William L. Wilson, a fine and scholarly figure in recent American politics, wrote him a letter which has value and interest in the light of the course of events in the past fifteen years.

OFFICE OF POSTMASTER GENERAL,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 28, 1895.

MY DEAR DOCTOR CURRY:

I have waited until I could look over the pages of the printed book, you so kindly permitted to read in *MS.* before sending you my acknowledgment of the copy you left for me at my office. To-day I have enjoyed for the first time an opportunity of re-reading some of its chapters, and I repeat, with unqualified emphasis, my first judgment:—That such a book ought to be written, and that you have written the needed volume. It seems to me to lack nothing in compactness, clearness, and unflinching truth of statement and historic authentication.

To reconstruct ideas and opinions adverse to the South, in so far as they are founded on ignorance and prejudice, is becoming more and more the task of Sisyphus. Your book ought, at least, to restore the proper historic perspective to the present generation of Southerners who are without "prejudice," and to compel a re-examination of the record from the fair-minded and honest student of history in all sections. And it delights me to hear that it is having a large circulation. It cannot but influence the final judgment of the future. I cannot see how it could have been written by any one who had not lived in, and borne his part in, the great struggles of the last forty years; and coming from you, who have done so much, since the warlike part of those struggles ended, to restore fraternity of spirit as well as of political association, it ought to arrest the attention and reform the judgment of every teacher of history in college or university. You, and I, in my humble way, have felt that our highest duty to our own section lay in devotion to the best interests of the whole country, and in the steady advocacy of national issues great enough to wipe out sectionalism. I rejoiced in the great tariff struggle, not only because we were fighting for a true national policy, but because I saw how effectually the rise of that question had obliterated